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Security Council

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Letter dated 24 May 2013 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to bring to your attention the attached letter dated 21 May 2013 from the Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Mr. Alexander Vershbow, transmitting the report on the international security presence in Kosovo during the period from 1 January to 31 March 2013 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

13-34660 (E) 280513 280513

Please recycle

Annex

[Original: English]

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach a report on the operations of the Kosovo Force covering the period from 1 January to 31 March 2013 (see enclosure).

I would appreciate your making this report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Vershbow**

Enclosure

Report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

Introduction

1. The present report on the Kosovo Force (KFOR) is provided in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and covers the period from 1 January to 31 March 2013.

2. As at 31 March 2013, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre was approximately 5,000.

Security situation and operations

3. By the end of the reporting period the overall security situation in theatre remained calm, but still volatile in the northern part of Kosovo. During the reporting period, KFOR contributed towards maintaining a safe and secure environment and ensuring freedom of movement in Kosovo.

4. Logistics convoys of the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) driving towards the crossing points at Gate 1 and DOG 31 were generally successful during the reporting period, although a few EULEX convoys were blocked in the northern part of Kosovo while transporting Kosovo Police and/or customs officers.

5. In the context of the European Union-facilitated dialogue, Belgrade and Pristina continued with the implementation of the already agreed system for the integrated management of crossing points. All six joint interim crossing points were operational by the end of the reporting period.[1]

6. A total of 16 incidents involving explosive devices were reported in the northern part of Kosovo during the first three months of 2013. Those explosions caused only minor material damage — only one incident resulting in injuries to two children on 4 February 2013 — and seem to result from a mixture of criminal and personal motivations. During the reporting period, a number of peaceful protests took place in Kosovo.

7. On 12 February 2013 the North Atlantic Council tasked KFOR to begin unfixing the eighth designated special status property, the Peć Patriarchate in Peja/Peć. When completed, this process will result in the transfer of responsibility for the security of the Peć Patriarchate in Peja/Peć from KFOR to the Kosovo Police. Throughout this process, KFOR continues to carefully monitor the evolution of the security conditions on the ground and engage with the key leaders of the Peć Patriarchate in Peja/Peć.

Summary

8. During the reporting period, KFOR, in coordination with EULEX, and the Kosovo Police, has continued to contribute towards maintaining a safe and secure environment and to ensure freedom of movement in Kosovo. While no major incidents were reported, the situation in the northern part of Kosovo remained tense due to the implementation of the agreement on the integrated management of crossing points and consequently the Force's main effort continued to focus there. KFOR continues to closely monitor the security situation on the ground.

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[1] The joint interim crossing points at Gates 4 and 6 became operational on 28 February 2013.